

Public Affairs Office

News Release

News Release No. 02-23	Date: April 26, 2002
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Keep pets on leash while using Corps recreation facilities

Clarkston, Wash., -- Park rangers are receiving growing numbers of calls from visitors to recreation facilities operated by the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, asking them to do something about pets being allowed by their owners to run loose off their leashes.

"We've been getting more and more complaints each week from visitors to the parks and trails around Lewiston and Clarkston about people having their pets off leashes," said Ron Gosselin, a Corps park ranger here. "It's important to remind visitors that they are required to have their pets on a leash. I don't like to write citations to people who don't have their pets controlled but I have to when I observe that or other visitors make a complaint about it."

Facilities in the two-community area include the Lewiston Levees, Swallows Park or anywhere along the Clearwater and Snake River National Recreation Trail. Regulations require visitors to have their pets on a leash or face a \$40 fine. Corps rules governing public use state that no dog, cat or other pet may be in a recreation area unless on they are kept on a leash under six feet in length or otherwise physically restrained. They also state that animals and pets, except properly trained animals assisting those with disabilities, such as seeing-eye dogs, are also prohibited in sanitary facilities, playgrounds and swimming beaches. People bringing pets in public use areas are responsible for proper removal and disposal of any waste produced by these animals.

"These rules are for the safety of the public using the Corps' facilities," said Gosselin. "If you have any questions, we encourage you to call the Corps' Clarkston office at (509) 751-0240."